

Graduation 2022

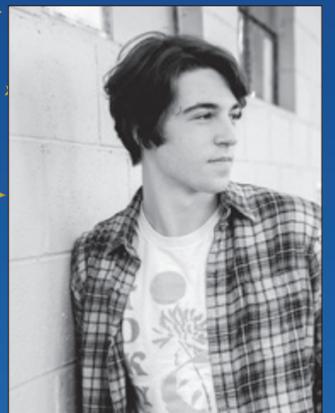
CELEBRATING
JEFFERSON
COUNTY
GRADUATES



“What lies behind us, and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.”
- Ralph Waldo Emerson



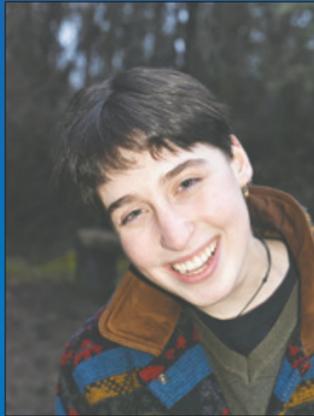
Maya Dow, Valedictorian



Lochlan Krupa, Valedictorian



Hailey Gallagher, Salutatorian



Elio Wentzel, Valedictorian



Lia Poore, Salutatorian



Micajah Shiflett, Valedictorian



Ava Vaughan, Salutatorian



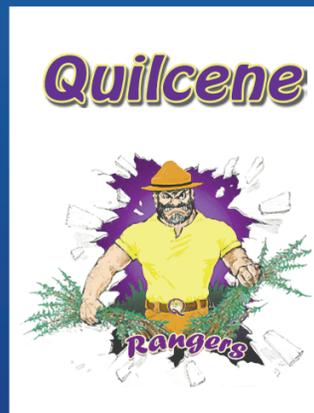
Eugenia Phillips-Frank, Valedictorian



Bishop Budnek, Valedictorian



Eryn Munn, Valedictorian



Savanna Smith, Salutatorian

QUILCENE HIGH SCHOOL



ALEJO, KEVIN
 Deb Johnson Scholarship \$2,175
 Pacific Shellfish Quilcene
 Scholarship \$2,000, Quilcene
 Alumni Association \$1,000, Seattle
 Foundation Bob and Maggie
 Bergman Scholarship 4 Yr. \$16,000



BARNEY, CHRISTIAN



BOONE, SEAN



BUDNEK, BISHOP
 American Legion Marvin G. Shields
 Memorial Scholarship \$1,200
 Janice & Patrick Yarr \$500
 Quilcene Alumni Association
 Citizenship Award \$250
 Quilcene Fair / Al Jakeway \$1,000
 Quilcene Bob and Maggie Bergman
 Scholarship 1 Yr. \$5,250, Quilcene
 Booster Club \$500
 Quilcene-Brinnon Garden Club
 \$500, Seattle Foundation Bob and
 Maggie Bergman Scholarship 4 Yr.
 \$18,000, VFW \$1,000



COFFEY, NATALIE



GALLAWAY, SAVANNAH
 Olympic College Community
 Service 1 Year Tuition Waiver
 Seattle Foundation Bob and
 Maggie Bergman Scholarship 2 Yr.
 \$3,000, With a Little Bit of Help
 Scholarship \$1,000



GRAUNKE, TEAGAN



GREEN, KALEI
 Seattle Foundation Bob and
 Maggie Bergman Scholarship 1
 Yr. \$1,000



HAYDEN, MELISSA



HITT, BRIDGET



JOHNSTON, ASHTON



MEGAN JONES
 VFW \$1,000
 With a Little Bit of Help
 Scholarship \$1,000



KIEFFER, NATHAN



LOOK, GAVIN



LOVE, SHELBY
 Olympic College Community
 Service 1 Year Tuition Waiver
 Seattle Foundation Bob and
 Maggie Bergman Scholarship 2
 Yr. \$3,000
 QEA \$500
 Quilcene Booster Club \$500



MAKI, AMANDA
 Seattle Foundation Bob and
 Maggie Bergman Scholarship 1 Yr.
 \$1,000



MCBRIDE, DALEN



MILLER, JAKOB
 CMIQ Scholarship – High School
 Graduate \$500
 East Jefferson Professional
 Fighters Local 2032 \$500
 Quilcene Booster Club \$500
 Quilcene Harbor Yacht Club \$500



MUNN, ERYN
 AAUW Quilcene High School
 Scholarship \$4,000, Barbara Jean
 Skinner Scholarship \$1,000
 Jandl/Rancich Memorial \$5,500
 Jefferson County Bar Association
 \$1,000, Quilcene Alumni
 Association \$1,000, Quilcene
 Harbor Yacht Club \$1,000, Seattle
 Foundation Bob and Maggie
 Bergman Scholarship 2 Yr. \$12,000
 VFW \$1,000, With a Little Bit of
 Help Scholarship \$1,000



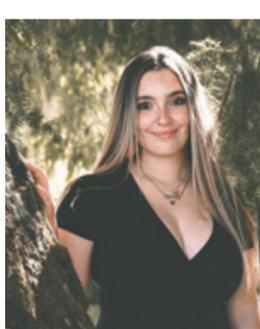
RODRIGUEZ, ESTRELLA



ROMAN, TONY
 Ruby-Jean Murray Memorial \$500
 Seattle Foundation Bob and
 Maggie Bergman Scholarship 2 Yr.
 \$2,000



SMITH, SAVANNA
 Quilcene Alumni Association
 \$1,000, Rochelle Orton Memorial
 \$500, Seattle Foundation Bob and
 Maggie Bergman Scholarship 4 Yr.
 \$16,000, With a Little Bit of Help
 Scholarship \$1,000



WARD, KAYLA
 Lorna Ward Scholarship \$1,000
 Rachael Hodgson-Ruiz Memorial
 \$500, Seattle Foundation Bob and
 Maggie Bergman Scholarship 1 Yr.
 \$1,000, With a Little Bit of Help
 Scholarship \$1,000

Not Pictured

SODERBERG, NATHAN
 Quilcene Bob and Maggie
 Bergman Scholarship 1 Yr.
 \$3,500

Not Pictured

LEREST, EWEN
 Ludlow Village Players Scholarship
 \$1,000, McCullough – Elliot
 Family Scholarship \$2,000, Seattle
 Foundation Bob and Maggie
 Bergman Scholarship 4 Yr. \$18,000



Above, the graduating Rangers make their way to the gym for the processional at the start of the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2022 Saturday.

At left, the senior class gathers for an impromptu group photo near the front of the school. *Leader photos by Brian Kelly*



Kevin Alejo and Nathan Kieffer walk through the gymnasium during the procession at Quilcene's graduation ceremony Saturday. *Leader photo by Brian Kelly*



Shelby Love and Natalie Coffey get rabbit-eared by their classmates while posing for a photo before the start of the graduation ceremony Saturday. *Leader photo by Brian Kelly*

Quilcene gym lit by the glow of two dozen stars

BRIAN KELLY
BKELLY@PTLEADER.COM

Bunnies and magic, mixed with tears and cheers.

The Quilcene community came together Saturday to celebrate the 24 graduating seniors of the Class of 2022 in a gymnasium packed with parents, families, and friends, and the welcoming sounds of "Hey Look Ma I Made It" by Panic! At The Disco.

From the opening moments of the commencement ceremony, with the spectacular rendition of the National Anthem by Eryn Grace Munn and Savanna Smith, the near-capacity crowd were treated to something special.

Smith, salutatorian for the Class of 2022, flipped the ever-present question of "What do you want to be when you grow up?" inside out.

Instead, she asked, who do you want to be?

"A person's value is not based on how many accomplishments they have or how much money they make," Smith told the crowd and her fellow graduates. "We can draw meaning in life by the effect we have on the people around us."

"Greatness doesn't have to mean money and fame, it can simply mean leaving the world with a little more hope and kindness than it had before," she said.

Bishop Budnek, one of the school's co-valedictorians, ad-libbed a bit when he followed.

"Wow. The whole town of Quilcene is here. All 40 of you guys," Budnek joked.

With quotes from basketball great Michael Jordan, former U.S. Senator Barbara Ann Mikulski, and DJ Khaled, Budnek braided inspiration with humor and reflection.

"We made it," Budnek said.

"For some of my friends up here, I don't know how you managed to make it this far or how you were able to listen while sleeping in class, but nonetheless, we made it.

"It was as if it was just yesterday, we were all sitting, listening to Mrs. Takamori read the Hobbit as 12 different people copied off the same worksheet," he added. "It was as if it was just yesterday we were all sitting together at lunch, laughing together as we talked about Coach Beathard and his terrible umpire calls in boomerball."

Fellow valedictorian Munn underscored the weird wonder of it all.

"It's strange to be standing here, isn't it?" Munn asked. "Here in our cap and gowns like poorly dressed wizards in a 12-year-old's Dungeons and Dragons Campaign."

She noted knowing some of her classmates since kindergarten.

"Which is absolutely bonkers," Munn added. "That's 12 years. I



Eryn Grace Munn, one of the school's co-valedictorians, speaks during commencement. *Leader photo by Brian Kelly*

don't know whether to laugh or cry."

With a bittersweet note, she reminded everyone that it's a wide world, "bigger than this little pond we've lived in."

"But, in all honesty, I think that is one of the best things that can happen to a student from Quilcene," Munn added. "Oftentimes we grow comfortable in what we find familiar. Familiarity is safe, but I think what we need to remember is that the world is wider than this town. We must take a breath and dive into that scary, strange ocean of reality — at least for a while.

Some of her fellow seniors would be going to college, or other states, or even just Seattle for a few days sometimes, she said, but there will always be home.

"My mother always told me I had to leave, but I could always come home. I think that's a sentiment everyone from Quilcene should carry with them," Munn said.

English teacher Cailey Takamori gave the commencement address, detailing each of the graduates in a heartfelt speech she came well-equipped for. She set a tissue box down next to the microphone before starting. "These are for me."

Takamori recalled starting her teaching career as a student teacher in Katie Allen's class, and her time as a coach over the past four years.

Behind her sat the three rows of



Quilcene's graduating class sits on the floor of the gym to watch a slideshow during the commencement ceremony. *Leader photo by Brian Kelly*

graduates.

Kevin Alejo, a three-sport athlete and college-bound football player. Budnek, the loud-volume leader. Ashton Johnston, the Rangers' biggest hype man. The multi-talented Sean Boone. Dalen McBride, D&D enthusiast. The fearless Christian Barney.

Luis "Tony" Roman, "one of the wittiest kids I have ever met." Melissa Hayden, one of the quietest kids in class. Serious student Savannah Galloway. Clutch teammate Teagan Graunke, whose crucial hit sent the softball team to

state. Jokester Gavin Look. Estrella Rodriguez; expressive, artistic, compassionate.

Jakob Miller: "The first student who fell asleep in my class."

Munn, the one who smuggled baby bunnies into her class, more than once. Fashion icon Nathan Soderberg and talented soul Ewan LeRest.

Smith, a state-level singer. The ever-independent Natalie Coffey. The so-serious Kayla Ward. Megan Jones; quiet, thoughtful, and cool. Shelby Love, three-sport senior and class president. Bridget Hitt,

behind-the-scenes planner.

"High school is a time where we grow and find those passions and personalities," Takamori said.

People, however, change as they move into other roles and places.

"Which is totally OK," she added. "If we were all the same as we were in high school, I wouldn't even be able to speak in front of a classroom, much less give a speech in front of a community."

"Growth and change are a part of life. All I ask is that you don't lose what makes you you," she said, sharing her immense pride for each student.

"Thank you all for the past four years, for a great start to my career," Takamori said. "I am happy that in a way, I am graduating out with you all."

As "Here Comes the Sun" by The Beatles played, the graduates left the platform to hand out dozens of roses to family, friends, and loved ones. The presentation of diplomas followed. Tassels turned.

And finally, before Principal Sean Moss could finish his final farewell, the graduation caps flew skyward.

One of the caps fell not far from sticky capital letters, the message: "And to those I love ... Thanks for sticking around."

Quilcene's student president graduates amid a flood of memories

BRIAN KELLY
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On the top of her graduation cap, there was a photo of her father, Tim, giving Shelby Love a huge bear hug. Surrounded by three gold butterflies, the message in gold letters above the photo said, "I'm standing here today because you helped me find my way."

"I cried when I made it," Shelby Love told a classmate as they waited to walk into the gym for the Class of 2022 Commencement Ceremony at Quilcene High.

Her father wasn't at her graduation Saturday, but in that way, he was.

Love's father passed away a month ago, marking a senior year filled with so many emotions and memories, some still hard to bring to mind.

She's been surrounded, supported by friends and family since the start. Love has been attending school in Quilcene since kindergarten, and she's known some of her fellow classmates the entire time she's been in school.

Self-described as shy, until people get to know her, she's one of two children of Luxmi and Tim Love, and an older sister to Jayden, 14, who's since gotten his share of sports fame for the Rangers as an eighth-grade scoring sensation for Quilcene's second-in-state football team. Her mother is a banker at First Federal in Port Townsend; before he passed, her father was a contractor.

The older-sister role fits Shelby Love well.

"It can be tough sometimes. He can be very little brother-like," she said.

Much has changed since their battles as youngsters, Love added.

"Me and my brother have gotten really close," she said. "We used to just battle it out. Now we're a lot closer, and it's a lot nicer."

Love has been the class president for this year's Class of 2022.

Across the school, and community, she's well-known as a sports stalwart for the Rangers, a valued member of the volleyball and fastpitch softball teams, and she also made a return to playing varsity basketball during her senior year.

High school hoops has prompted some head-turning for sports fans in Quilcene.

During double-headers in the Quilcene gym, Love was one of three players on the basketball team that would leave the court after the final buzzer, only to rush into the locker room and come back suited up for the boys' games — as a cheerleader at courtside.

It was quite a switch for spectators, from seeing Love dive for loose balls or race for an errant rebound, to arms-raised, foot-stomping crowd-pumping enthusiasm.

Love was joined by two other master students in stamina by junior Ashley Jones and freshman Abby Ward, who also cheered for an entire boys game after wrapping up their varsity game minutes before.

"We were very rushed," Love recalled.

"I thought it was a lot of fun," she said. "I loved cheering, and cheering on for the boys. It was very exhausting, but it was very fun."

Her best memories probably come from sports, she said.

She harkened back to their final playoff game this year, a fastpitch matchup against Darrington where

the Loggers had cut out to a seemingly insurmountable lead.

But the Rangers roared back at the end, winning 14-13.

"We were down eight runs and we came back," she said. "I'll always remember that."

This year was made especially memorable by the softball team's trip to the 1B state fastpitch championships in Yakima, a streak of 11-straight appearances by the Rangers.

"State is always the best memory. It's so much fun. It's just the bonding and being there and having fun together," Love said.

Love was a pitcher and an outfielder for Quilcene. She has been on the team since she was an eighth-grader, and her team's trip to State marked her third time there, considering that COVID cancelled a complete season for two years.

"We were really all hoping it would come back after the sixth week or so [of the pandemic], but it just cut out," she recalled.

"It really put a halt on sports, which was kind of devastating," she said.

The joy of playing wasn't bound by the scoreboard or lines of wins and losses.

"It brought all of us together and that was how we created family and friendships. So COVID really knocked that out," she said.

"And then it was hard to connect with people and talk to people. Especially that year, we built so much into that team," she said of the first softball season to fall by the wayside. "That team had so much potential. And just knocked it all out."

Volleyball was also cut short, but by only one year. Love has also played for the Rangers' team since she was



Quilcene graduate Shelby Love.

an eighth-grader, and was also on Quilcene's middle-school team.

"I've always just loved the sport," she said of volleyball. "And coming together as a team; same with fastpitch."

After school years eclipsed by some darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic, she said her senior year at Quilcene has slipped quickly by.

"I haven't really thought about the past and all the memories," she said during an interview a week before the school's traditional Walk of Fame, a joyous precursor to Saturday's annual commencement ceremony.

"It's all just coming to an end. It flew by," she said.

"The beginning of senior year felt like a week ago." Other school years, by

comparison, were more of a stroll than a sprint.

"The other years felt like they were longer. Not as fast. But this year, just went by. I can't believe we're graduating in a week," she said.

Love said she's really enjoyed the small size of Quilcene schools, which are all combined on one K-12 campus with about 224 students who attend classes there.

"You can make friends with anybody. You know everybody. You can be one-on-one with teachers or get immediate help," she said.

"It's been really nice. Everybody's so close."

In a place where some students have known each other since preschool, Love has a simple secret for maintaining friendships over the

years: "Honesty."

Pressed to name a favorite teacher, Love singled out elementary teacher Katie Allen.

"She was just always there for me, whether I knew it or not," Love said.

Love quickly added counselor Tiffany Jaber as another school favorite.

"She helped me through a lot," Love said.

She also expressed thanks for history teacher and coach Mark Thompson, math teacher Jim Weller.

Outside of sports and classwork, Love works at the coffee stand, PNW Press, though coffee isn't actually her beverage of choice there. Spritzers, on the other hand...

She has also volunteered in the school's preschool every Wednesday.

Love adores the kids and the time they have together, from puzzles to playtime.

"We'll walk to the school and we'll do garden or library. We'll hang out with the kindergarteners. Or we'll walk over to the playground or walk through the trails," she said.

"I love working with kids. Preschool is my favorite thing to do."

It could be an older sister thing, she said, and maybe that's related to what she wants to do after graduation. Love is planning on starting college at Olympic College for an associate's degree on a path toward a major in early education and teaching.

Her advice to younger students is timeless.

"Don't be mean, don't bully," she said.

And do, as well, what has worked for her: "Soak all the years in with every memory; and just keep making memories."

Graduating senior shows mettle on path to a new career

BRIAN KELLY
BKELLY@PTLEADER.COM

Jakob Miller certainly has a bead on a tight transition from high school to the work world.

A senior graduating with Quilcene's Class of 2022, Miller has been studying welding at West Sound Technical Skills Center in Bremerton and has been working at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard since June 2021.

The shipyard training program is something he became interested in a few years ago after an older student in Quilcene started the program.

"I thought it was really awesome," Miller recalled. "My welding teacher motivated me to apply."

He spent the entire summer working full-time at the shipyard, spending time in each of the 11 or so trade shops.

His return to class this year was short, and his trip back to the shipyard will

come quick.

"I went back to school my first semester to essentially get all my credits to graduate early," he explained.

"Next week I'm having interviews for all the shops and will eventually get to choose what kind of career path to take inside the yard."

The workaday world is nothing new for Miller. His work ethic and his ability to focus on the job at hand is what he calls his superpower.

"I've been doing odd jobs since I was 12 years old."

From mowing lawns, to building decks, making fences, putting down gravel, or laying concrete, his side work as a teen has included pretty much "a little bit of everything."

"I found myself very motivated to do really anything," Miller explained. "My goal when I start a project is to see it through to the end."

He also did an apprenticeship as a blacksmith under Stryker Gooch.

His biggest lesson there: patience.

"With blacksmithing you don't really see the metal moving. You feel like the metal isn't going anywhere, but you can slowly see it shaping in the way you want," Miller explained. "Otherwise, it's going to be rushed and it won't be as desirable as you would have liked."

The son of Denise and Eli Miller, he's an older sibling, with brother James a year younger.

He's been attending school in Quilcene since kindergarten.

In high school, his favorite subject has been math.

Miller is described as curious, motivated, and, of course, hardworking.

He's not bothered by many things. Maybe waiting in line. People who haggle. And, well, maybe cats meowing profusely, that would be Yin Yang.

"My youngest cat does that the most," Miller laughed.

Miller was a sports standout for the Rangers. He played football for Quilcene



Jakob Miller accepts his diploma from his mother, Denise Miller, at Saturday's commencement ceremony. Leader photo by Brian Kelly

from eighth grade to his junior year. And in baseball, he started in third grade in Little League and continued all the way through his junior year, as well.

The training program in Bremerton cut short any return to sports his senior year.

That's OK, though.

"I like learning and I like the concept of fabrication and

being able to use my mind and kind of connect the dots," he said.

One of his favorite teachers has been Bela Kovacs, the welding instructor at West Sound Tech. At Quilcene High, it's been math teacher Jim Weller.

His proficiency with metal, combined with genuine artistic talent, has made Miller a winner.

Miller won multiple awards during the 2022 Olympic Peninsula High School Art Exhibition, held by Peninsula College.

A ceramic, two-legged vase garnered him a second place in the 3-D category.

He also earned an honorable mention for a metal rose sculpture he made while at West Sound Tech. It was created from mild steel, complete with thorns and a rosebud, about 9 inches long.

Under a perfect scenario, his creativity would lead him to his dream job someday.

"I'd like to own my own business selling my own art, as far as welding and clay. It's kind of like my dream to be able to be independent and not have to work for someone else. To be my own boss do what I love," he said.

For those who follow at Quilcene, Miller gave a little for the school's next batch of Ranger seniors.

He laughed when he said it was really nothing new: "I'm going to say expect the worst and hope for the best."



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Port Townsend seniors share memories, press for change at graduation ceremony

JAMES SLOAN
JSLOAN@PTLEADER.COM

Whether it's the good, the bad, or the ugly, Port Townsend High School's Class of 2022 has seen it all. Advancing past the myriad of challenges presented to them over the past four years, the Red Hawk seniors rose to the challenge and passed with flying colors.

Hundreds of families, friends, and supporters showed up to Fort Worden's McCurdy Pavilion Friday evening to show their love for the Class of 2022.

With a massive 2022 sign illuminating behind them, Port Townsend's 82 seniors graced the stage full of glee.

Associated Student Body President Jerome Reaux Jr. started off the merriment with a greeting speech to his peers and graduation attendees.

"I want to thank my fellow seniors for having my back through this time," Reaux said. "We earned our right to be on this stage."

He thanked his peers, teachers, staff, and attendees for their constant support through it all, concluding with, "let's give the crowd what they came to see; a jolly good damn show."

Next, the class' three valedictorians spoke, starting with Maya Dow.

Dow called back to the many memories she made through the high school and Port Townsend, noting that she'd been attending the school's high school graduations since the age of 5.

"This moment is special and this town is special," Dow said.

"Here, right now, instead of names on a list of several hundred graduates, tonight we are each recognized as people who have ambitions and unique traits. Here, in Port Townsend, we have always been celebrated as individuals."

Referencing multiple inside jokes and laughing along with her peers, Dow concluded with: "Whether we leave or stay, this community is our home."

Tri-valedictorian Lochlan Krupa discussed finding friendship and belonging while he was a student, and encouraged the Class of 2022 to seek friends and colleagues who welcome them as their true selves without reticence for fear of judgement, expanding on that point through a thought-provoking journey he took before high school.

"The summer before my freshman year, I embarked on a two-week backpacking trip in the Olympic Mountains," Krupa said.

Hiking with his fellow teens, Krupa encountered a friend with the alias "Ace," and he discussed the deep wisdom gained from a conversation with the friend.

"Ace said that we all wear



Port Townsend High School graduates sing and sway to their alma mater at the end of Friday's ceremony. Leader photo by James Sloan

a suit of armor. We shield our vulnerabilities, our true selves, for the fear of the swords and arrows of others' judgements, assumptions, and words. Yet during our backpacking trip, every boy began to shed pieces of his armor; a shoulder pad here, a greave there, eventually everyone's helmet came off," he said.

"It is these moments, moments of openness, of realness, that we live for," he said.

Krupa concluded with a message to his peers.

"Our armor may be safe, but it is also really heavy, and dark. So I am speaking directly to you, Class of 2022, when I say that as we become the politicians, artists, mechanics, engineers, scientists, disc golf champions, and professional Clash Royale players that we are meant to be, we should remember to seek the people and places that allow us to be seen," he said.

"That allows us to remove our breastplate without fear, to feel the sun on our bare skin. For it is through authenticity that we foster connection, and through connection that we foster joy."

Fellow valedictorian Elio Wentzel started with a political statement on gun violence in schools and violence against members of the LGBTQ+ community.

"In the United States, school isn't always a safe place to be," Wentzel said.

"There have been at least 96 incidents of gunfire on school grounds so far this year, and I was worried



Senior violin soloist Tusker Behrenfeld performs "Appalachian Waltz" to the audience. Leader Photo by James Sloan

"Life is a confusing tangle of learning experiences that aren't good or bad."

Co-salutatorian Hailey Gallagher
PTHS CLASS OF 2022

that number would increase between the writing of this speech and graduation.

"An estimated 82 percent of transgender people have considered suicide, with the highest rates among trans youth, and still there are countless new anti-LGBTQ+ bills being created for the sole purpose of making it more difficult to be yourself."

"I don't think I'm being blindly optimistic when I say that our generation will be the one to create tangible solutions to these systemic issues," Wentzel said to applause.

Wentzel praised the graduating class for constant support and love.

"The most important thing

successes or failures that can be characterized as good or bad," Gallagher said. "Life is a confusing tangle of learning experiences that aren't good or bad."

She then praised her colleagues, and added: "The Class of 2022 is a group of strong, resilient, passionate people with tangled paths of learning experiences ahead of us."

As we head off on our non-linear journeys, I can't wait to see what incredible lessons we learn from our future teachers in life and how we apply that knowledge to create a happier, safer, more accepting, and more sustainable world."

Co-salutatorian Lia Poore underscored the importance of getting back to the basics through her formative experiences as a gymnast.

"As I grew up in the sport, I learned countless lessons. One of the most impactful was the importance of foundation," Poore said.

Referencing world-famous Olympic gymnast Simone Biles' battle with the "twisties," a disorienting experience when an athlete's mind and body are out of sync, Poore noted the importance of foundation and remastering the basics.

"Even the most influential and accomplished people, like Simone, face unexpected challenges. No matter the scale or situation, setbacks are inevitable, but the way we tackle these challenges is what matters the most," she said.

"So don't be afraid to go back to the basics, because

when faced with opposition, the best thing to do might be to remember what pushes you to keep going or to reflect on the qualities that make you who you are."

Graduate Julia Neville, the faculty speaker, expressed the importance and capability for joy and healing that laughter can bring.

"I have always loved and believed in the transformative power of humor, in the way a joke can bring about crinkled eyes and beaming smiles," Neville said. "I've seen firsthand that laughter not only changes one's mood, but their life and the lives of those around them."

"At such a pivotal point in our lives, graduates, as we feel ambivalent about our futures and reflect on the nearly insurmountable challenges we have to overcome, we need some sort of pick-me-up, and that is laughter," she added.

Port Townsend High teacher Ben Dow delivered a poem to the audience, filled with references to the many memories made with the seniors throughout their four years together.

Class speaker Kenneth Nichol rounded off the speeches with a humorous and heartfelt recounting of the highs and lows of school.

"Being subjected to the pandemic gave us qualities that we will keep for the rest of our lives. We grew to be resilient, disciplined, and adaptable, and we gained the experience to face sudden adversities at a young age," Nichol said.

"Life threw us some lemons these past few years, but from that we made some damn good lemonade."

Nichol said each senior faced diverging roads after high school to follow their dreams.

"Change can feel bittersweet, but despite the amazing support we've received and great memories made, it probably feels time to say goodbye to our beautiful cement couch and the mysterious brown ceiling stains that make Port Townsend High, Port Townsend High," he said, joking.

"No matter how far our roads lead us apart, we will always be connected; we will always be the Port Townsend Class of 2022."

Following the student speeches, string musicians Maya Dow, Antonio Powers, Lochlan Krupa, Tusker Behrenfeld, and Lia Poore delivered a quintet performance of "Ani Ma'amin" by John Leautt.

Additionally, Behrenfeld performed an exhilarating violin solo of "Appalachian Waltz" by Mark O'Connor, Yo-Yo Ma, and Edgar Meyer.

With that, the Port Townsend Class of 2022 crossed the stage, celebrating as they anticipate where life will take them next.



Above, the graduates turn their tassels near the end of commencement, Right, full of fan fare the seniors throw their caps into the air. Leader photos by James Sloan



PORT TOWNSEND HIGH SCHOOL



Class of 2022



Allan, Rachel



Alley, Hunter



Allworth-Miles, Max



Anderson, Erie



Anderson, Mark



Arceo Hernandez, Isabella



Arnovitz, Sophia



Asbell, Aurin



Avila, Aria



Barry, Gage



Behrenfeld, Tusker



Berg, Sterling



Berry, Faye



Biedenbach-Todd, Rini



Bowman-Smith, Baylee



Clanton, Peyton



Cochrane, Ellis



Crabtree, Jeffrey



Deane, Dante



Dow, Maya



Drewry, Rejeana



Falge, Charlotte



Feldman, Maya



Fisher, Robert



Frame-Link, Nathaniel



Fredrick, Bianca



Gallagher, Hailey



Grant, Emily



Greer, Savanna



Hansen, Jasmine



Harrington, Linnea



Hayes, Sidra



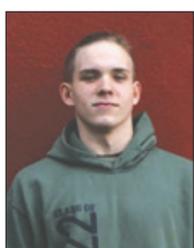
Hensiek, Cameron



Hoffman, Savana



Huddleston, Alex



Humphrey, Roman



Iverson, Iris



Jennings, Justin



Johnson, Isaac



Johnson, Logan



Kane, Emma



Kenworthy, Holden



Kithcart, Jesse



Klemann, Murphy



Kopala, Duncan



Krupa, Lochlan



Lewis, Wilder



Lopez-Kennison, Chloe



Lott-Melick, Christopher



Marchefka, Sydney



Martin, Jasmine



Massie, Logan



McAdam, Emma



McClellan, Nika



McGriff, Rowan



McMillen, Kenneth



Mustread, Kenneth



Neville, Julia



Newton, Gabrielle



Nichol, Kenneth



Patric, Jeannette



Poore, Lia



Powers, Antonio



Presler, Sebastian



Reaux Jr., Jerome



Richards, Evan



Rodeghier, Mason



Sanok, Pascal



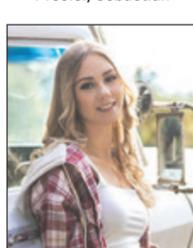
Smith, Macy



Sneddon, Alexander



Stafford, Blake



Taylor, Jazmyn



Thornton, Owen



Wallace, Marcela



Watson, Taj



Webb, Grace



Wentzel, E



Winsheimer, Autumn



Witheridge, Madison



Wolf, Moe



Wyatt, Sage



Zabransky, Luke

PT scholar and artist headed east to attend Yale

JAMES SLOAN
JSLOAN@PTLEADER.COM

There's very little that recent Port Townsend High School graduate Elio Wentzel can't do.

Whether it's photography, reading, learning new languages, or art in just about any medium, Wentzel is not only an artist, but a scholar.

They recently earned valedictorian status — shared as a three-way tie between Wentzel and two other Port Townsend High seniors — and plan to continue their education by getting immersed in liberal arts at the prestigious Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

Though they enjoy art in its many forms, a major muse for Wentzel is photography.

"A big passion of mine since middle school has been photography," Wentzel said. "I think that photography is a very powerful way to communicate ideas."

After getting their first camera in middle school, Wentzel immediately found inspiration through the

art form.

"At this point, photography, it's been a strong constant for me. It's so accessible," Wentzel said. "There's a lot of merit in taking photos ... it really challenges your eye to see things."

Whether it's fidgeting with the manual settings to get a better grasp of the craft or finding new ways to capture a subject in a creative way, working with the camera has been a hobby with staying power for the senior.

Photography may be a major passion for Wentzel, but perhaps one of their oldest and most dear hobbies has been reading.

"I love books so much; my mom (Joy Wentzel) is the district librarian in school," they said. "We would always go to the library together."

One of the graduate's favorite books that really was eye-opening for them was "In the Dream House" by Carmen Maria Machado.

The book really spoke on a nuanced queer relationship and the intricacies within that, Wentzel

said.

As a member of and strong advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, the senior is incredibly passionate about the advancement and acceptance of that community, other marginalized voices, environmentalism, and so much more.

Linda Lenz, one of Wentzel's favorite teachers through high school, aided the graduate in understanding and advocating for the environment and working to counter climate change.

"She's just so great, she always talks about connecting school to real-world problems and is a huge environmental person," Wentzel said.

Another impressive way that the graduate finds connection with others is through their constant pursuit of learning new languages.

Wentzel is fluent in Spanish, good with Italian, and is in the process of learning Yiddish in an effort to connect with their ancestry.

"My family definitely has Jewish roots, and I want to rediscover them



Port Townsend High graduate and valedictorian Elio Wentzel is heading to Yale University this fall in pursuit of a liberal arts education. Photo courtesy of Elio Wentzel

with my older family," they said. "I've found that language was a really good cultural connection for

me."

Wentzel has committed to Ivy League college Yale University and will attend the institution this fall, looking to broaden their horizons and get immersed in the numerous arts and sciences programs offered there.

The senior is diving into college and looking to try out as many things as possible, Wentzel said.

Although it's a big step from the West Coast to New England, the graduate has family who lives in the area to help with the transition.

Wentzel is excited by "the thought of living directly in a city ... [and] it's a huge change, but something I will grow from," they said.

The graduate's plan is to immerse themselves into a wide range of classes at Yale to learn more and more every day.

"I love the liberal arts education and how there's so much room to explore interesting topics with really smart people," Wentzel said.

Graduating PT athlete to pursue professional disc golf aspiration

JAMES SLOAN
JSLOAN@PTLEADER.COM

Mark Anderson, a Port Townsend High School graduate of the Class of 2022, enjoys sports of every kind, but his true passion lies in the flying disc sport of disc golf.

Whether it's the process of throwing a perfect drive through the tree-lined disc golf course at H.J. Carroll Park or the gratifying, ringing sound one hears after gliding a putt into the basket, there's nothing the senior loves more.

"My favorite thing to do is play disc golf; that's the goal in life for me. I really want to be a professional disc golfer," Anderson said.

As an athlete, competitor, and lover of the outdoors, the sport is the perfect fit for the young adult.

The disc golf enthusiast first got into the niche sport when his brother, Luke Anderson, invited him to try it out a couple years back.

"My brother got me into [disc golf] like two years ago; we went

outside and there were some discs around," he said.

Fast forward to today, and Anderson's passion for the sport has expanded beyond a favorite hobby or pastime. He has real aspirations to keep at it in hopes of going pro.

On the weekends, he's usually out on the course participating in local and regional tournaments and leagues.

Now that he has more free time, the graduation senior plans to pursue pro status full-time and work his way up the ranks.

Many days he can be found at H.J. Carroll Park gliding discs into the basket on his home course.

Anderson even dedicated his senior project to improve the disc golf course at the park.

"For my senior project, I remodeled the course," he said. "The old sign (at the start of the course) was really beat up ... I remodeled it, stained it, and made it more welcoming to people. It was a fun project."



Mark Anderson moves forward with the ball in an East Jefferson Rivals soccer game in the spring. Leader photo by James Sloan

Although disc golf is Anderson's cardinal passion, his second love in the athletic space has to be "the beautiful game," otherwise known as soccer.

The graduate was a part of the East Jefferson Rivals this spring,

playing as No. 9 in the midfield.

"I've been playing soccer since about fifth grade; I've always had an interest for it," Anderson said. "The high school team is great."

"I really like the team here; everybody in it and the coach

(Robert Cantley)," he said.

Beyond sports, Anderson enjoyed his time at Port Townsend High, though he attended many classes online through the school district's OCEAN K-12 program.

"The teachers were really nice there and helped me throughout the whole year," Anderson said of the OCEAN program. "I learned a lot of life skills in school and I learned a ton of information."

"For me, it was a lot better [to do it] by myself ... it was a lot easier and I learned a lot more," he added.

Two of Anderson's favorite teachers through the years have been Blue Heron Middle teacher Brett Navin and Port Townsend High teacher Tim Behrenfeld.

"I'd say they were both super nice people and always there to help," the graduate said.

Now that high school is in the rear-view mirror, Anderson will continue to chase his dream to become Port Townsend's first-ever professional disc golfer.

PORT TOWNSEND HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

ANTONIO POWERS
Port Townsend High School Scholarship Foundation Endowment

AURIN ASBELL
PTHS Athlete of the Year - Female Andy Palmer Memorial Scholarship
AAUW STEM Award for Science
Port Townsend Rotary Club

E WENTZEL
Chie Bounds Memorial Scholarship
Port Townsend Sunrise Rotary Club Service Above Self Scholarship
Port Townsend Rotary Club
Terri Purviance Martin Memorial Scholarship
Barbara Marseille Arts Scholarship

EMILLIA NUNN (CLASS OF 2021)
Port Townsend Rotary Club

EMILY GRANT
AAUW STEM Award for Technology

GABRIELLA NEWTON
Port Townsend Kiwanis Club Scholarship
AJ Schott Resiliency Scholarship

HAILEY GALLAGHER
PTHS Activity Leader of the Year - Female
AAUW and UWF Environmental Scholarship
Port Townsend Rotary Club

IMOGENE WILLIAMSON
Chris Kimble Voc Tech Scholarship

JEANETTE PATRIC
Port Townsend Rotary Club

JEROME REAUX JR
Port Townsend Sunrise Rotary Club Voc/Tech Scholarship
Donald Thomas Scholarship
Chris Kimble Voc Tech Scholarship

LOGAN MASSIE
Arnold and Lucille Eggert Memorial Vocational Scholarship
Jewel Cline Atwell Memorial Scholarship
Port Townsend Sunrise Rotary Club Voc/Tech Scholarship

MAX ALLWORTH-MILES
PTHS Athlete of the Year - Male
Windermere Real Estate - Agents of Good Roots

MAYA DOW
Port Townsend Kiwanis Club Scholarship
AAUW High School Girl's Scholarship
AAUW STEM Award for Math
Port Townsend High School Alumni Association Scholarship (Ginger Doolittle Jacobsen Memorial Scholarship)
American Legion Marvin G. Shields Memorial Scholarship
Port Townsend High School Scholarship Foundation Endowment
Port Townsend Rotary Club

TUSKER BEHRENFELD
PTHS Activity Leader of the Year - Male Tusker Behrenfeld
Port Townsend High School Alumni Association (Engineering Scholarship)
Holiday Wreath Scholarship
Port Townsend High School Scholarship Foundation Endowment
Port Townsend Rotary Club



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Here We Go!

Viola V. E. Phillips Frank
University of California, Berkeley

Eugenia G.E. Phillips Frank
University of Chicago

Congratulations to our remarkable girls on their graduation and blindingly bright future!
With love and admiration, Mom and Dad

Chimacum High School Scholarships

Akira Anderson

University of Puget Sound
 AAUW UWF Scholarship Port Townsend
 Disco Bay Women's Golf Club Scholarship
 Deb Johnson Memorial Scholarship
 Chimacum Backpacks for Kids/Karen Jensen Memorial Scholarship
 Dave Garing Memorial Scholarship
 Key City Chapter #7 Order of the Eastern Star Elks Lodge Scholarship
 East Jefferson Little League Scholarship
 Bremerton Valley of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Scholarship
 Washington College Grant
 Puget Sound Grant
 Puget Sound Scholarship
 Puget Sound President's Scholarship
 East Jefferson Rotary Club Scholarship
 Total \$67,399.00

Jacob Richardson

American Legion Marvin G. Shields Memorial Post 26 Scholarship
 Mitch Black Memorial Scholarship
 Duke & Jeanne Shold Scholarship
 Elks Lodge Scholarship
 Total \$8,200.00

Ava Amos

Washington State University
 Norm Christie STEM Scholarship
 Duke & Jeanne Shold Scholarship
 Washington State University

Baccalaureate Scholarship (WA State Opportunity Scholarship)
 East Jefferson Rotary Club Scholarship
 Total \$13,200.00

Devin Jensen

Olympic Equipment Rentals Scholarship
 Evergreen Fitness/Greg Bolling Memorial Scholarship
 Derek Franson Trucking & Excavating Scholarship
 Chimacum Class of 1970 Scholarship
 Elks Lodge Scholarship
 total 5,050.00

Tiffany Bell

Brigham Young University
 Windermere Scholarship
 Total \$1,000

Zula Mosher

Evergreen State College
 Chimacum Education Association Scholarship
 Total \$500

Cameron Johnson

Peninsula Community College
 Chimacum Education Association Scholarship
 Total \$500

Benjamin Martin

Chimacum Staff Payroll Scholarship
 Douglas Honors College CWU Scholarship

Big Blue Boosters Scholarship
 Duke & Jeanne Shold Scholarship
 Elks Lodge Scholarship
 Total \$ 500

Brooke Merry

Henry & Marjorie Rogers Memorial Scholarship
 Chimacum Backpacks for Kids/Karen Jensen Memorial Scholarship
 Elks Lodge Scholarship
 Quilcene Lions Club Scholarship
 Total \$4,800t

Dailynn Morrissey

University of Washington – Tacoma
 Kim Kooistra Scholarship
 Tina Johnson Memorial Scholarship
 Peace Lutheran Scholarship
 \$1,800

Awstyn Sukert

Elks Lodge Scholarship
 Chimacum Alumni Scholarship
 Total \$4,500

Eugenia Phillips Frank

University of Chicago
 Chimacum Education Association Scholarship
 Duke & Jeanne Shold Scholarship
 Wild Rose Chorale Scholarship
 The College Board National Recognition Scholarship (University of Chicago)
 Gerry Hyatt Bergstrom Vocal Music Scholarship

Truvedsen Estate Scholarship
 Total \$11,000

Viola Phillips Frank

University of California Berkley
 Duke & Shold Scholarship
 Wild Rose Chorale Scholarship
 Gerry Hyatt Bergstrom Vocal Music Scholarship
 Truvedsen Estate Scholarship
 Total \$6,500

Micajah Shiflett

Washington State University
 Duke & Jeanne Shold Scholarship
 Washington State University Scholarship
 Big Blue Boosters Scholarship
 Susan Phillips AP Scholarship
 Elks Lodge Scholarship
 Total \$10,500

Ava Vaughan-Misfud

University of Washington
 American Legion Marvin G. Shields Memorial Post 26 Scholarship
 Chimacum Education Association Scholarship
 Rotary Club of East Jefferson County Scholarship
 University of Washington Presidential Scholarship
 Ross & Claudine Roesler Memorial Scholarship
 1st Federal Bank Port Townsend Scholarship
 Elks Lodge Scholarship
 Total \$34,700.00

CHIMACUM HIGH SCHOOL



Chimacum graduates display determination, dexterity, resilience

JAMES SLOAN
JSLOAN@PTLEADER.COM

After four years together, and for many Chimacum graduates even more than that, the tight-knit group closed its final chapter of a high school career full of changes and many ups and downs.

But the one constant that endured past the adversity of endless mounds of homework, a newly-combined athletic program, or dealing with a two-year pandemic, was family.

Mounds of confetti and errant graduation caps littered the McCurdy Pavilion stage at Fort Worden as the young adults crossed the bridge into a new stage of life, with a tidal wave of applause from admiring friends and family members echoing throughout the venue.

With a massive, neon 2022 sign behind them, 56 seniors beamed with pride and jubilation following the major milestone.

Faculty-elected speaker and Chimacum graduate Jacob Constable kicked off the speeches with congratulations to his classmates, and to the family, friends, and supporters who helped get them to the finish line.

"I would like to thank everyone here for supporting the young adults who are graduating today. The past years have been tough, and I don't mean COVID, I mean all of it; schools, jobs, and everything else," Constable said. "But we are here on this stage today, and that's what matters."

He reminded his classmates to take a moment to commend themselves for all their hard work, and to not get bogged down by the challenges before and the obstacles to come.

"It's easy to only remember the roadblocks and potholes along the last 13 years. But let's take a moment to think back to how you solved whatever problem that you got stuck on," he said.

"You need to embrace the efforts that you put into every single thing that you do. You don't have to constantly tell yourself, 'Good job,' but you just simply need to acknowledge the efforts that you put in. If you fall off a horse, at least you got back up."

"It's not about trying to please other people – that is part of it – but not as much as trying to make yourself happy. You don't need to worry about every single person's happiness. You need to make yourself happy, embracing the things that make you happy and the things that you enjoy," Constable added.

Student-elected speaker Tiffany Bell discussed the profound bond built between the classmates as they navigated through high school, and the family forged through the years.



Chimacum seniors celebrate with confetti and cheer following their graduation ceremony. *Leader Photo by James Sloan*

"For four long years, we have been in high school. Although the last two months have slipped away in the blink of an eye, four years is a pretty long time," Bell said. "And it's long enough for us to look around at each other today and realize that this Class of 2022 has become a family."

"Now, I would argue that while maybe we aren't truly 'friends,' anyone with siblings can tell you as I can, that living with a bunch of other kids does not make you friends. It does, however, make you a family," Bell added.

Bell advised her peers that what Chimacum High lacks in size, it makes up for in deep connection and familiarity with each other.

"It's not common for people to be able to look at their graduating class and know everyone's names. Graduating classes of hundreds and thousands don't have that luxury. We know each other," she said. "Now, as we go through the doorway into our future, we can always remember the home we've had, the family we made."

Viola Phillips Frank took the podium next as the honorary student speaker, asking the graduates to find gratitude and urging them to pass forward the torch of appreciation.

She started off by acknowledging the sometimes under-appreciated school staff that keep things running

smoothly.

"As this year's graduating class remembers those who have made a difference in our lives, the names that come to mind might be our parents, coaches, and teachers, and rightfully so; they have taught and mentored us throughout school," Phillips Frank said.

"However, we sometimes forget the other staff, many of whom we may never speak to or even see, who make it so that we have a clean, safe, and productive place to learn each and every day. Counselors and kitchen staff, secretaries and nurses, custodians, bus drivers, and class and club advisors."

Referencing National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, Phillips Frank beckoned her classmates to find gratitude and continue to be brave in the face of adversity.

"Regardless of whether you're graduating today, in a few years, or walked triumphantly across the stage decades ago, keep this in mind: Gratitude is a choice. Appreciation is a choice," she said.

"You have the power, each and every day, to give thanks to those who warrant your praise. And remember; just as you can thank those who sparked a flame in you, so too may you pass forward a glowing ember."

Class president and salutatorian Ava Vaughan-Misfud spoke to the power of resilience when plans go

awry.

Reading a line from Scottish poet Robert Burns' poem, "To a Mouse," she gave her contrasting perspective on the poem's bleak outlook on the uncertainty of life and futility of foresight.

"As I reflect on the past four years of high school, Burns' words ring true, but they disregard one crucial quality of human existence; a quality that has prompted us all to rebuild our nests and has propelled us onto this stage today. An ineffable, powerful force we often call resilience," Vaughan-Misfud said.

Delving into the ill-fated results of stringent planning, the graduate returned to the power of resilience.

"My plan was everything Robert Burns had described nearly 250 years ago. It was a scheme destined to leave grief and pain for promised joy. Yet, everything worked out for the best," she said. "How could it be that despite my failed plans, and in the face of such difficult challenges, I — and indeed the rest of my class, emerged victoriously? As I suggested, the answer is astonishingly clear; resilience."

Shared valedictorian Eugenia Phillips Frank shared the power of words and actions, and urged her peers to challenge authority and bring change to the world as part of the new generation.

"Some people, including myself,

are proud to have sharpened and honed our words into the most effective tool we have," Phillips Frank said. "Let the power of the right words not be understated. Let us not ever forget that words have both laid the foundation for great societies and swung the hammer that brings empires crashing down."

"No matter how high our rhetoric soars, true impact will always lie in that crucial final step: the action. And so, we recognize the sparkling truth of this momentous day. As members of Chimacum's 104th graduating class and as newly-minted adults, we can finally seize ownership of the action we long for each time authority lets us down," she added.

Phillips Frank urged the graduates to vote, protest, and boycott for the good causes they hold dear.

"When words alone fail, do not blame the words. Reflect on them, then wrap them up carefully, put them in your pocket for safekeeping, and act," she said.

"You will always be louder that way, and you'll have your words right by your side when it comes time to call upon them once more. But for now, your piece of the action awaits. Claim it."

Shared valedictorian Micajah Shiftett wrapped up the speeches by addressing the graduates' perseverance in the face of constant challenges, and ability to rise above the circumstances.

As a younger generation, we have been faced with constant changes that we lack control over, and it is our response to these circumstances that define our present lives, as well as what is to come," Shiftett said.

Referencing the COVID-related adversity the students faced on a daily basis, he praised the Class of 2022 for rising above.

"The one-way halls, the temperature gauge every day before school, the COVID tests; these necessary precautions all made school repetitive and tedious, more than school had ever been before. There was simply no alternative," Shiftett said.

"And yet, throughout all the torment, all the stress from both the social and physical world, we persevered. Instead of giving up on ourselves and blaming our problems, we continued to push through and follow our dreams."

"Never Gonna Give You Up" by Rick Astley rang through the halls of the pavilion as the graduates popped confetti all over the stage in celebration, eagerly awaiting the next chapter of life.



Viola Phillips-Frank delivers her speech, All the Light We Cannot See, at Saturdays' graduation. *Leader photo by James Sloan*



Chimacum graduate Anson Jones receives his diploma. *Leader photo by James Sloan*



The graduating seniors turn the tassel as they eagerly anticipate the next chapter of life. *Leader photo by James Sloan*

Chimacum grad looks forward to looking back

BRIAN KELLY
BKELLY@PTLEADER.COM

It's OK to look back. You might learn something. With one chapter of his life coming to a close, and an exciting new chapter set to start, Chimacum High's Micajah Shiflett said he's eager to look ahead, while still appreciating the past.

He has been a student in Chimacum since his freshman year. His father, a career Navy man who was once stationed in Bangor, wanted to live in Washington state when he retired.

The last week of school has been a whirlwind, he said.

"I'm excited and nervous at the same time. I'm getting prepared to go to college," he said. "This final week is just slammed full of projects, exams, and all that. It's pretty tough."

Next up is Washington State University in Pullman.

"It's a smaller school. Eastern Washington; less people," he explained. "I do not like cities that well."

His field of study is already set.

"I like history, I'm a history fan," he said. He noted the famous quote from Spanish writer and philosopher George Santayana: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

"I feel like it's important to know history. I just like to know about ancient cultures. Our own country, too," he added, noting his course studies over the past two years in Chimacum on presidential policies.

"Like the New Deal by FDR. How that helped pull us from the Great Depression. His help in World War II," Shiflett said. "And all the policies that kind of screwed us over, too."

That begs the age of question of 'If you could have dinner with a historical figure, who would it be?'

Who would Shiflett's choice be, for a burger and Coke?

"The easy one would be George Washington. Other than that ... if I could go into ancient history, and they could speak English, or if I spoke their language — there's quite a few for me."

Asked for one, his reply: "Julius Caesar."

When talk turned to favorites, Shiflett also stepped into the Wayback Machine.

His theme song?

That late 1980s-nugget-turned-omnipresent-internet gag, "Never Gonna Give You Up" by Rick Astley.

"That's our class song this year," Shiflett noted.

"I feel like it's important to know history. I just like to know about ancient cultures. Our own country, too."

Micajah Shiflett
CHIMACUM HIGH CLASS OF 2022

"I kind of like, in terms of music, Nintendo. The soundtrack of the games, I just like to listen to it while I'm studying," he said. "I think they are kind of neat."

For favorite movies, Shiflett likes the old-meets-new flair of the "Jurassic Park" series. Which sort of nods toward his dream job.

"Growing up, I liked dinosaurs. If I were to be an archeologist, a famous archeologist, that would be amazing to my childhood self," he said. "I still like that stuff today. History, big thing."

"More realistically, being a lawyer of my own law firm would be a cool thing," Shiflett added.

Shiflett has been intensely involved in school activities at Chimacum High.

He was the executive treasurer for the ASB, and played soccer and football all four years. And don't forget, one of the Class of 2022's two valedictorians.

"I played tennis one year. It's a lot harder than you think," he said.

Shiflett added it was a winning move to combine the Chimacum and Port Townsend sports programs.

"I think it's really great. Before we just had nobody; very few people on our team," he said.

"My freshman year, we barely had 11 people on our soccer team. You need 11 to play," Shiflett noted.

"The turnout has been great. We had around 50 kids on the football team. Combining our talent from both schools — it's done very well for us in football. We won our league championship."

For a student of history, now and in the years to come, he's leaving Chimacum with some good memories. Including a cheeky new one.

"My friends. I'm going to be in contact with them, I'm sure, for years. I'll remember teachers, some special moments," he said.

"Today our band teacher was giving us



Chimacum High valedictorian Micajah Shiflett

a slice of cake from a Class of 2022 cake," Shiflett added with a laugh. "But people purposefully gave him the slice that said 'ass' on it."

Looking back, Shiflett said he's changed as time's gone by.

"I used to be really shy," he recalled. "I'm a lot more outgoing and extraverted.

Level-headed I guess, a little more."

On advice for freshman, Shiflett said: "Don't argue with teachers. And if you actually do the work, you will get somewhere in life. And don't pick up a vape."

But what advice would he give himself, if he could, when he was 10?

"Invest in Tesla stock," he said.

Chimacum senior salutes teachers, fellow students

BRIAN KELLY
BKELLY@PTLEADER.COM

There was a funny saying about Jacob Constable a few years back.

Constable, one of this year's 58 graduating seniors in Chimacum High's Class of 2022, recalled his freshman and sophomore years on the football team.

He was a lineman on the team, and for players on the other side, seemingly unstoppable.

"I ended up getting this nickname, 'Snowman,'" he recalled.

"And the jingle, 'No man can stop the Snowman.'"

Every single time in practice against Chimacum's starting offense, Constable rushed through the line.

But one of his favorite memories of attending school in Chimacum was the time he got hit by that frosty feeling.

"One year during the talent show I was asked to help someone who was being a scientist/magician type thing," Constable said.

He was asked by someone to come up and tell some jokes during the act. And the person who asked, he recalled, had always laughed at his every joke.

"However, I walked up there, one of the jokes I said: What's a balloon's least

"I have even seen the changes in myself, and I've just really enjoyed watching people grow up, in a sense."

Jacob Constable
CHIMACUM CLASS OF 2023

favorite type of music?"

The audience waited. Then the answer.

"Pop."

Constable laughed at the memory. At the time, at his jokes, the crowd didn't.

"They were bad jokes," he admitted.

"When you tell an audience bad jokes, you can hear, you can feel, their mood. I could hear them sighing in the crowd. And it brought me so much joy."

That's that Constable charm. Methodically understated, easy at prompting a "Wait, are you serious?" reaction.

Constable, 17, has been a student in Chimacum since the third grade, since his father moved here from Kentucky.

The son of Amie and Jamison Constable, he's the youngest in a blended family.

"I am literally the youngest of them," he said. "It's been great, honestly."

Long pause.

"I was being sarcastic."

When asked to describe himself, a few adjectives come to mind.

"Probably lazy. I have a nice lazy personality," he said.

Then comedic.

"I like joking around with people and messing around with them a little bit, too. Lots of people tell me I'm kind and considerate," Constable said.

"But I am also the person who would trip a 5-year-old," he said without missing a beat.

Speaking of beats, it brings up another "Wait, what?" moment: Constable's favorite music genres.

Classical music is a passion, he said. Beethoven, Mozart.

"I also really like dubstep," Constable said, referring to the style of bass-heavy electronic dance music.

"When you get classical and dubstep together, two musics that are normally



Jacob Constable

completely opposite, and make a mixture of the two of them, it's actually pretty nice," he said.

At Chimacum High, Constable said his favorite classes have been math and science. Add yearbook, too, as a late discovery.

Math teacher David Porter has been one of his favorite teachers.

"My freshman year I was in his classes. It was like geometry first thing in the morning.

"I just kept falling asleep over and over. Instead of just yelling at me and moving me to the front of the class so I wouldn't fall asleep ... he would have fun with it," Constable said.

Like the one time he fell asleep in math class, and the other students slipped a note into his pocket.

That was a good prank, he admitted.

As his senior year comes to an end, Constable said

he's not the type of guy to get nostalgic.

"When it comes to Chimacum High School, I don't know how many things I'll remember. It's hard for me to find sentimental value in experiences," he said.

"At the same time, I will miss these teachers. A lot of them were really, really nice and they actually care about the students. I notice that about a lot of the teachers."

To be true, high school has had its moments.

"Honestly, the most enjoyable thing for me has been watching all my fellow classmates go from, well, there's only one way I can put this, young and dumb, to more and more mature as time's went on.

"I have even seen the changes in myself, and I've just really enjoyed watching people grow up, in a sense," he said.

For younger high school students, Constable said he

would advise them: "You got to work with the teachers, not against them. If you do that, then you'll have much better high school career. You'll have a much better time here."

"The kids who always got in arguments with the teachers have a lot less fun at school," he said.

But what advice would he give 10-year-old Jacob Constable?

He laughed. "Don't skip eighth-grade math. It was such a bad decision. 'Intro to algebra.'"

Constable learned it had been a bad choice when he started ninth grade.

"When the algebra teacher says on the first day, 'We're going to be using what you learned on your first day in your eighth-day math class.'"

"I still remember that line. It echoes in my head sometimes. Those words will stick with me forever," he said.

"Sixth-graders or seventh-graders, I would tell them, never skip a year of math. Ever. It was a terrible decision."

After high school, Constable said he was planning on getting "a normal job."

He plans on saving money for school, and hopes to pursue a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

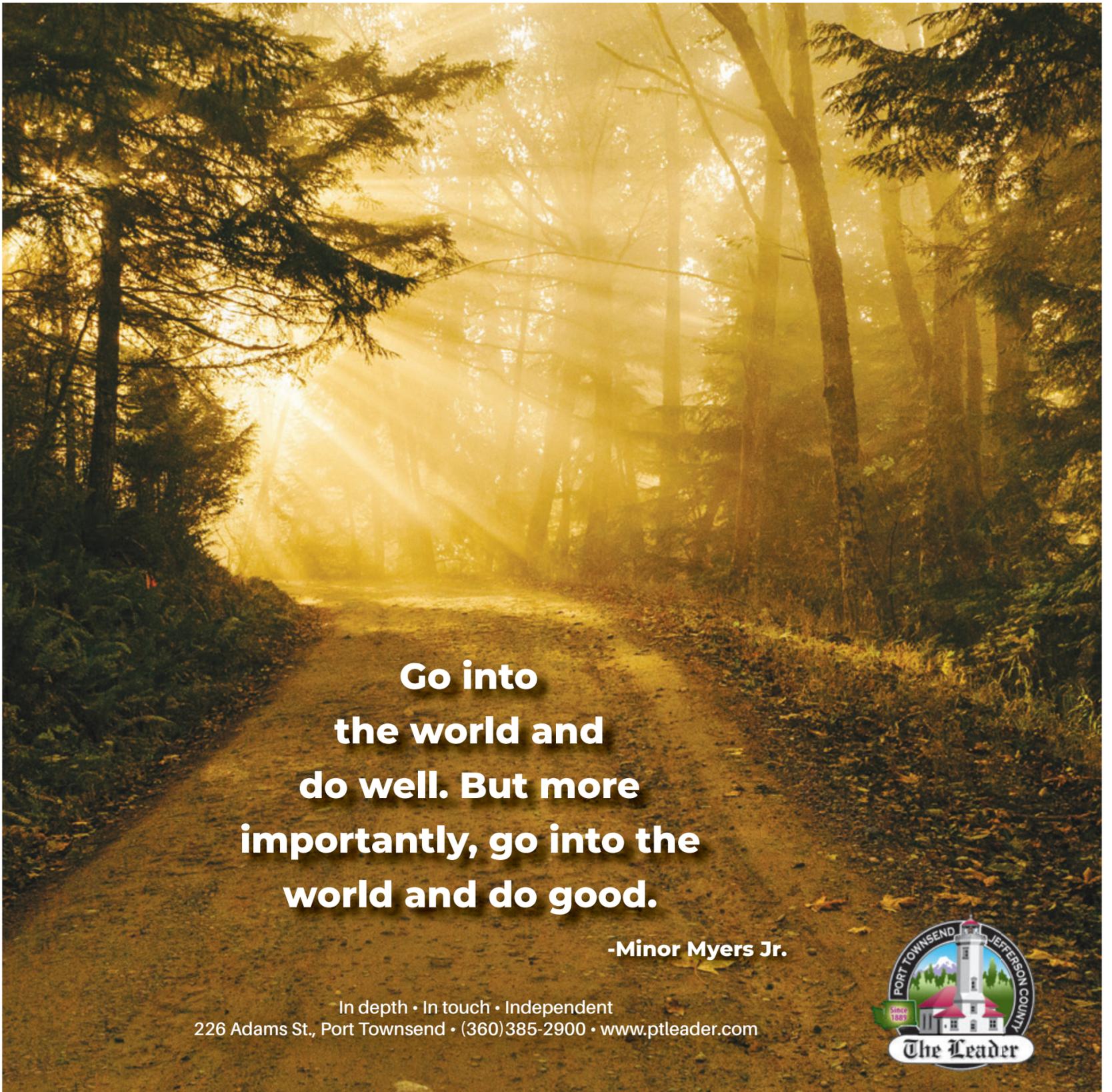
He wants to someday become a police officer, and eventually, a detective.

"I've always wanted to help people. But at the same time, I know I can't be a doctor," Constable said.

"Cure a disease? I know I'm not that person," he said. "But I know I can be the guy who chases down some purse thief."

He's got the name for it already, he added.

"In Britain, a police officer is called a constable," he smiled.



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world and do good.**

-Minor Myers Jr.

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